

Legislative Research Resources

1. THOMAS

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

THOMAS provides the user with legislative information in a search able format. The page has several sections: a bill summary and status search that allows the user to search by word/phrase, bill number or sponsor, current activity information available in an RSS feed, a list of weekly top five bills, a tip of the week, treaties search, Congressional Record search, committee report search, etc.

2. Fedstats.gov

<http://www.fedstats.gov/>

Fedstats.gov is a page that primarily serves as a link-out page for data and statistics pages covering a wide variety of topics. The Map Stats tool is one of the only tools that is not primarily a link-out to another agency page. This tool provides data that allows you to select a state and compare that data to that of the entire United States. Data includes statistics on population, ethnicity, births, housing, geography and business.

3. Bureau of labor statistics

<http://www.bls.gov/opub/>

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has information on a variety of topics, including statistics on inflation, spending, employment/unemployment and productivity. The site has four subject tabs, which are: subject areas, database and tables, publications and economic releases.

4. Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/index.html>

The Library of Congress is a site that provides a variety of resources to the user. Although much of the information on the site is for discussion of in-house collections, the library holds many different digital collections available online, including links for web site archiving, prints and photographs, legislative information, American history and culture and historic newspaper information. Users can also browse by topic to get to information quickly.

5. Federal Data Repository

<http://www.data.gov/>

Data.gov is the a very well developed data repository that allows users to search content in three ways - the raw data catalog, the tool catalog and the geodata catalog. In the search tool, categories include agriculture, arts, banking, housing, education, elections, births/deaths, business, elections, energy, federal government finances and employment, foreign commerce/aid, geography, health, income, population, etc. The search tool also allows users to search via agency and download information in a variety of formats. Results are listed with title and description, rating and category.

6. 2012 Statistical Abstract of the United States

<http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

The 2012 statistical abstract, from the U.S. Census Bureau, provides information on a variety of topics, including agriculture, education, labor force, law enforcement, population, social insurance and human services, etc. Older information is available, ranging from 1878 - 2009. Data can be downloaded either in an Excel or PDF format.

7. Directory of the United States House of Representatives

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

The Directory of the House of Representatives offers an easy online guide to quickly find a State Representative by state/district and by last name. Listings include district number, the name of the Representative, Party affiliation, phone number and room assignment and committee assignment. Additionally, users can enter a zipcode to find a specific Representative. The tabs towards the top of the page include information on leadership, legislative activity and committee information.

8. U.S. Government Printing Office - Federal Digital System

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>

The U.S. Government Printing Office Federal Digital System page provides a searchable resource that includes publications from the three branches of government. The page includes a section that highlights featured collections, such as Congressional Bills and Documents, Economic Indicators and the budget of the U.S. government.

9. Congressional Budget Office

<http://www.cbo.gov/>

The Congressional Budget Office page provides a variety of information, ranging from publications to cost estimates. The Publication tab at the top of the page allows users to search for documents by most recent (past 90 days), specific collection, subject and document type. Users can also select an advanced search option, which includes text and date filters. The Cost Estimates tab has a similar search option that includes text, bill number, committee and other filters.

10. American FactFinder

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

The U.S. Census Bureau's American FactFinder page is an online resource that provides information ranging from population data to geographic and economic information. Examples of information that can be located on the site includes educational attainment data, race and ethnic group data, housing occupancy characteristics and much more. The left side of the page allows a user to start a search by topics, geographies, race and ethnic codes and industry codes. The center column provides a simple search by topic/table name and location (state, county or place). The page also offers reference maps and finding census data by street level/ address.

11. IES.gov - Institute of Education Sciences

<http://ies.ed.gov/>

The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) is a site that has many statistics and reports related to education. Users can access reports and education statistics on the site, as well as link-out to the Department of Education and ERIC. A search function for funding opportunities is also available, and provides the user with options to search for funded programs by Principal Investigator, Grantee, etc.

12. CDC - Data and Statistics

<http://www.cdc.gov/datastatistics/>

The Data and Statistics link on the CDC page provides a researcher easy access to a multitude of information and data ranging from cancer to life expectancy. Users can select data and statistics by topic or choose from the resources tabs located at the bottom of the page. Tabs include interactive tools, surveys, surveillance, publications and products and vital statistics. In addition, the top data and statistics box may be of interest.

13. Office of Budget and Management - Earmarks database

<http://earmarks.omb.gov/earmarks-public/>

The Office of Budget and Management Earmarks database page provides information on appropriations earmarks ranging from years 2005, 2008 -2010. The page allows for full text search, which can be filtered by Agency, Subcommittee, year, etc.

14. Federal Election Commission - Campaign finance reports and data

<http://www.fec.gov/disclosure.shtml>

The Federal Election Commission's Campaign Finance Reports and Data page provides a variety of data, ranging from a database that provides information on candidate/PAC summaries, contributor names, committee contributions, and more. Users can also view electronic filings and financial reports by House and Presidential campaigns, Parties and PACs, as well as link to the Disclosure Data Catalog.